

Givens Lane Widening & Progress St. Extension

Town of Blacksburg

www.VirginiaDOT.org
saleminfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Thursday October 6, 2005 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Town of Blacksburg welcomes you to the citizens information meeting on the proposed widening of Givens Lane and Progress Street extension in the Town of Blacksburg.

This citizens information meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on his or her own behalf or representing a group or governmental agency, to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project.

All comments received, both oral and written, will be reviewed and evaluated by VDOT and Town of Blacksburg representatives.

A comment sheet is included, and your input is encouraged.

Project Description

The project is located within the town limits of Blacksburg beginning at the proposed connection of Chickahominy Drive with Givens Lane as part of the upcoming Toms Creek Road construction project. Improvements to Givens Lane will extend to North Main Street. Progress Street will also be extended to Givens Lane as part of this project.



Existing Givens Lane, shown above- east of Progress St., is proposed to have two lanes with a raised median, designated bicycle lanes, curb and gutter, and sidewalks.

This project was part of a resolution passed by the Blacksburg Town Council on April 13, 2004 which established priorities for road projects within the Town.

The purpose of this project is to provide a wider travel way, designated bicycle lanes, and sidewalk in order to enhance safety and promote multimodal transportation along the roadway.

Givens Lane is classified as an Urban Collector Street serving primarily residential areas in northwest Blacksburg. The typical sections, as requested by the town and defined in the comprehensive plan are as follows; Givens Lane will be widened from the current 2-lane undivided roadway with shoulders and ditches to a 2-lane divided roadway with a raised median, designated bicycle lanes, curb and gutter,

(Continued on page 2)

PROJECT INFORMATION

Givens Lane Widening
From: Chickahominy Drive
To: North Main Street

Progress Street Extension
From: Cherokee Drive
To: Givens Lane

State Project:
 U000-150-114, P-101, R-201,
 C-501

UPC: 72527

Federal Project:
 STP-5150()

Representatives from VDOT and the Town of Blacksburg are present to discuss the project and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of the Virginia Department of Transportation to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For further information, contact VDOT, Salem District Office of Civil Rights, 731 Harrison Ave., Salem, VA 24153, or call (540) 387-5320, toll free (800) 611-5812, or TDD 711.

Project Description (continued)

and a 5 foot sidewalk on one side and a 10 foot sidewalk on the other. Progress Street will be extended with its current 2-lane undivided roadway section, designated bicycle lanes, curb and gutter, and sidewalk on one side to intersect with Givens Lane.

Turn lanes may be constructed at the various intersections along Givens Lane. A detailed traffic study is underway to assist in determining the locations where turn lanes will be warranted.

Although roadway lighting will not be included as part of this project, conduits and foundations will be provided and constructed along the project for future installation.

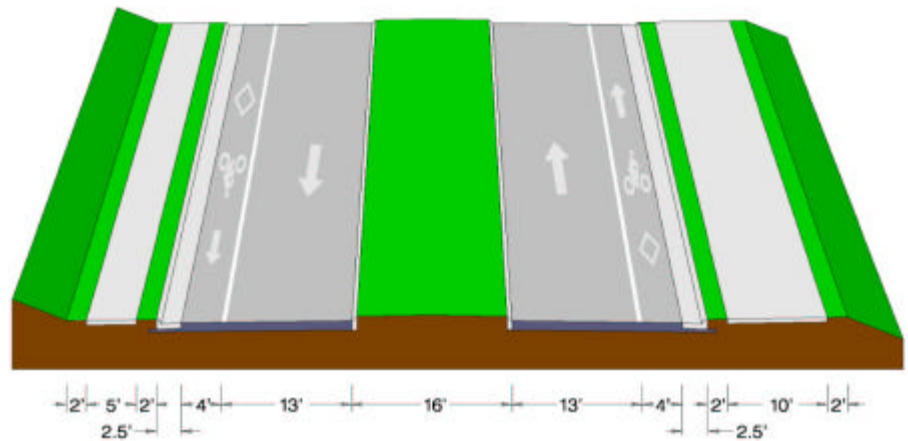
The design of this project will be in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, the Stormwater Regulations and the annual Stormwater Management Standards and Specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Potential impacts to flood plains and wetlands will also be evaluated. To minimize potential impacts on water quality and comply with regulations, stormwater management basin(s) is anticipated as part of the project. The basin's location(s) have not been determined at this time. A stormwater management basin reduces increases in runoff and pollutants leaving the roadway while minimizing impacts to properties downstream of the project.

Potential locations for retaining walls will be closely evaluated along the project to determine the benefit of reducing impacts to adjacent properties from the proposed limits of construction.

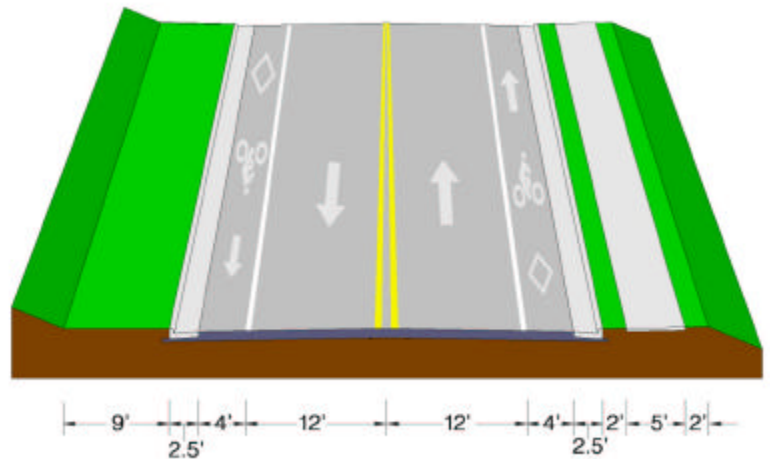
Typical Roadway Sections

Givens Lane



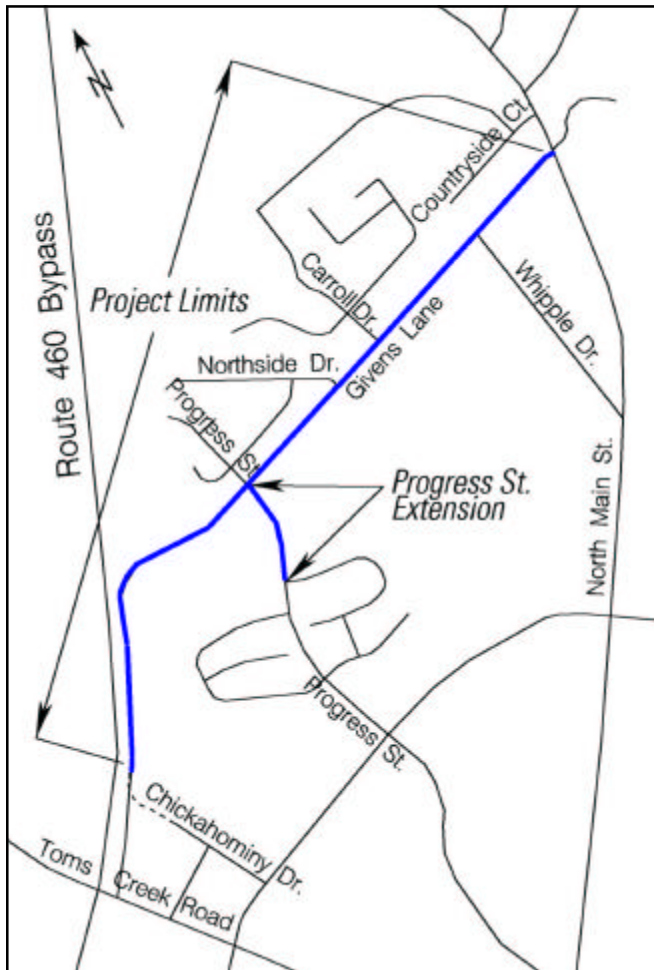
- 13-foot travel lanes
- 4-foot bicycle lanes
- 2.5-foot curb & gutter
- 10-foot sidewalk (right side)
- 5-foot sidewalk (left side)

Progress Street



- 12-foot travel lanes
- 4-foot bicycle lanes
- 2.5-foot curb & gutter
- 5-foot side walk (right side)

Project Map



This project will address the current alignment of the Givens Lane and North Main Street connection shown above. Givens Lane will be shifted to the south in order to improve the turning movement for vehicles turning south onto North Main Street. The grade of Givens Lane at the intersection will be improved to reduce the slope as vehicles approach the intersection. Currently, vehicles are stopping on a steep downgrade on Givens Lane which increases the probability of sliding out into oncoming traffic on North Main Street during slippery conditions.

Right of Way Issues

A mosaic of an aerial photograph depicting the proposed project is on display at this meeting showing preliminary right of way for the project. As plans are further developed for the project, additional right of way, temporary and permanent easements, and utility easements may be required beyond what is shown. Easements are required for construction of slopes as well as maintenance of drainage facilities.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure entitled, "Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available here from a VDOT right of way agent and after this meeting, information regarding right of way may be obtained from VDOT, Salem District Right of Way and Utilities Office, 731 Harrison Ave., Salem, VA 24153, or call (540) 387-5320, toll free (800) 611-5812, or TDD 711.

Environmental Review

VDOT's Salem District Environmental Office is currently reviewing the project under the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and will be completing an Environmental Document in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This will help determine potential social, economic, cultural resources, and environmental impacts upon the local community and surrounding area. As part of this documentation, an updated Noise Impact Analysis will be completed. Both the Environmental Document and Noise Report will be available at a future public meeting for the project.

What's Next?

Ten days after this citizens information meeting, the public comment period will close. At that time, VDOT and Town of Blacksburg representatives will review and evaluate the comments received as a result of the meeting.

In an effort to maximize the use of available funding, VDOT and the Town of Blacksburg have chosen to use the design-build process to complete the Givens Lane Widening & Progress Street Extension Project. The process to select a qualified design-build candidate will begin in Spring 2006. Once a selection has been made, a schedule for public hearing, right of way acquisition, and construction will be determined.

Project Funding

Currently, the total funding available for this project is \$10.1 million. This includes federal, state, and local funds. As plans are being developed, the scope of the project may be reduced to maximize the use of available funding.

Additional Information

Project information shared here is available for review after the citizens information meeting at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave. in Salem, (540) 387-5320, or at VDOT's Salem Residency Office located at 714 S. Cambria St. in Christiansburg, (540) 381-7200.

Written comments and other exhibits related to the proposed project may be submitted in place of or in addition to statements made at the citizens information meeting. Such information must be postmarked or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days (on or before Oct. 16, 2005) of today's meeting in order to be included in the record of this meeting. Please send written comments to:

Virginia Department of Transportation
Mr. Richard L. Caywood, P.E.
Salem District Administrator
P.O. Box 3071
Salem, VA 24153
Telephone: (540) 387-5348
TDD/TTY: 711

Questions concerning VDOT's policy on obtaining right of way should be directed to:

Mr. Jack P. Orr
Salem District Right of Way Manager
Virginia Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 3071
Salem, VA 24153
Telephone: 540-387-5366 or toll free 800-611-5812

Please call prior to visiting to assure the availability of staff to assist you.

Office of Public Affairs
VDOT Salem District
731 Harrison Avenue
Salem, VA 24153
540-387-5493
saleminfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov

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